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THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

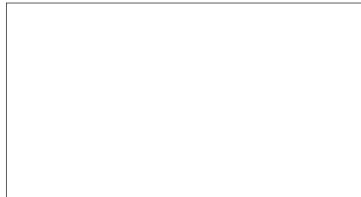
National Intelligence Council

30 June 1983

NOTE FOR: Henry S. Rowen
Chairman, National Intelligence
Council

Henry —

I thought you might be interested in my review of the JCS' posture statement from the narrow proliferation perspective, and in connection with how one characterizes Soviet nuclear strength. In Secretary Weinberger's statement* proliferation is mentioned only in passing; and regarding Soviet strength, the following is recorded: "We are now faced with a Soviet Union that has deprived us of our advantage in nuclear arms."



* Annual Report to the Congress, SecDef,
Fiscal Year 1984



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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 4802-83
30 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Nuclear Proliferation, Soviet Nuclear Superiority (?),
and the 1984 Posture Statement of the JCS

1. Nuclear Proliferation Not Mentioned. As in virtually all previous annual issuances, nowhere in the statement* is nuclear proliferation mentioned. This seems to be a serious omission given the prevailing view that the spread of nuclear weapons to additional states inevitably will affect US security interests. This shortcoming easily could be redressed by the inclusion of some discussion of potential proliferation threats in either of two places:

- In the Security Assistance section where the stated US objectives include assisting countries vital to US national interests in preserving their independence and regional security (Pakistan and Israel are obvious examples of the interplay of proliferation tendencies and US security assistance).
- In the Supplemental Topics appendix that now includes such subjects as arms reduction negotiations and technology transfer.

Inclusion in either (or both) sections of the statement would at least telegraph the awareness of the JCS of the threat of nuclear proliferation and the need for preparing to cope with such a threat (to include possible adjustments in US force deployments and concepts for their use).

* United States Military Posture for FY 1984, prepared by the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, not dated,
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SUBJECT: Nuclear Proliferation, Soviet Nuclear Superiority (?), and the
1984 Posture Statement of the JCS

2. Soviet Nuclear Strength. Here is what is said about the subject:

- The Soviets "have modernized much of their nuclear force, giving them a position of advantage...." (p. 1)
- "By gaining advantages in certain measures of nuclear strength, the USSR is challenging the US guarantees of effective retaliation...." (p. 3)
- "The Soviets, by achieving, and in some cases, exceeding nuclear parity, have guaranteed that war cannot be deterred with strategic nuclear weapons alone." (p. 4)
- "The Soviet Union...now enjoys significant advantages in certain measures of nuclear forces." (p. 14)

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Assistant National Intelligence Officer at Large

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A/NIO/ [redacted]

30 June 1983

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